

Council Minutes – 9 April 2020

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 9 April 2020, commencing at 11.07am, via Zoom.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, John Falloon, Rodger Letham, Lynette Lovett, Angus McKay, Liz McMillan, Diane Rawlinson and Stuart Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Paul Brake (GM Business Support), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure Services), Sarah Mosley (Manager People & Capability), Toni Durham (Strategy & Policy Manager), Ruben Garcia (Communications Manager) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Bevan Rickerby (Economic Development Manager), Colin Windleborn (Commercial Manager).

Methven Community Board Chair (1.52pm-2pm)

Presentations

- EMC Board Chair – 11.08am-11.44am
- NZTA – 2pm-2.50pm.

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

Business transacted with the public excluded – 11.08am

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
18	Council 27/02/20	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
19	Audit, Risk & Finance Committee 19/03/20	Sections 7(2)(h) & 7(2)a	Commercial activities Protection privacy natural persons
20	COVID-19 Response Committee 2/04/20	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
21	Library & Civic Centre Project Control Group 30/01/20 and 24/02/20	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
22	Land Purchase	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
23	Experience Mid Canterbury	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
24	CE Performance Review process	Sections 7(2)a	Commercial activities

Wilson/McMillan

Carried

Council resumed in open meeting at 12.25pm and adjourned until 1.00pm.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 27/02/20

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 February 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Rawlinson

Carried

5 Council (Extraordinary) Meeting – 19/03/20

That the minutes of the extraordinary Council meeting held on 19 March 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

Lovett/Braam

Carried

6 Council (Emergency) Meeting – 25/03/20

That the minutes of the emergency Council meeting held on 25 March 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

Falloon/Cameron

Carried

7 COVID-19 Response Committee – 2/04/20

That the minutes of the COVID-19 Response Committee meeting held on 2 April 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Rawlinson

Carried

8 Community Services Committee – 12/03/20

That the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 12 March 2020, be received.

McKay/Letham

Carried

• Biodiversity Advisory Group Terms of Reference

It was noted that the draft terms of reference had omitted some representatives' names.

Council supported an additional clause that will provide speaking rights being granted to one member of each of the advisory group member organisations at each meeting.

That Council adopts the Biodiversity Advisory Group terms of reference, as amended.

McKay/Cameron

Carried

• ADC Biodiversity Officer

1 **That** a business case for a Biodiversity Officer be prepared and considered in the Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031.

2 **That** Council notes the pending changes to legislation in the biodiversity area that may override the need to progress the business case.

McKay/Cameron

Carried

Cr Wilson recorded his vote against the motion on basis of the pending legislation.

9 Environmental Services Committee – 12/03/20

That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 12 March 2020, be received.

Rawlinson/Lovett

Carried

10 Infrastructure Services Committee – 12/03/20

That the minutes of the Infrastructure Services Committee meeting held on 12 March 2020, be received.

Falloon/Wilson

Carried

- **Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee Terms of Reference**

That Council adopts the Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee terms of reference.

McMillan/Lovett

Carried

- **Ashburton Car Club Road Closures**

It was reported that the Street Sprints and Night Autocross event and the Standing Quarter Mile Sprint event have been cancelled.

That the Ashburton Car Club's requests for road closures (street sprints and night autocross event, and the standing mile quarter mile sprint event) be withdrawn.

Wilson/Braam

Carried

11 Bylaw & Policy Committee – 19/03/20

That the minutes of the Bylaw and Policy Committee meeting held on 19 March 2020, be received.

Falloon/Wilson

Carried

- **Bylaw and Policy Review Update**

That Council receives the bylaw and policy review report.

Falloon/McMillan

Carried

- **Sensitive Expenditure Policy**

That Council adopts the revised Sensitive Expenditure Policy with the next review scheduled for 2025.

Falloon/Cameron

Carried

12 Audit, Risk & Finance Committee – 19/03/20

That the minutes of the Audit, Risk & Finance Committee meeting held on 19 March 2020, be received.

Braam/Falloon

Carried

- **Airport Authority Subcommittee Terms of Reference**

That Council adopts the Ashburton Airport Authority Subcommittee Terms of Reference.

Letham/Braam

Carried

- **Experience Mid Canterbury Draft Statement of Intent 2020-21**

It was noted the performance measure for the Methven i-Site has been added.

That the item of business lies on the table until 21 May 2020.

Brown/McMillan

Carried

- **Ashburton Contracting Ltd Draft Statement of Intent 2020-21**

That Council receives the Ashburton Contracting Limited 2020-21 draft Statement of Intent and make any comments on the draft Statement of Intent to the ACL Board by 30 April 2020.

Braam/Falloon

Carried

- **Appointment and Remuneration of Directors of Council Organisations Policy**

That Council adopts the revised Appointment and Remuneration of Directors of Council organisations policy, with the next review scheduled for 2025.

Braam/Cameron Carried

- **Drinking Water Review – Residential D Metering**

That Council approves a budget of \$120,000 to install the remaining water meters on Residential D properties, and this be funded from the Ashburton water reserve account.

Braam/McMillan Carried

- **Drinking Water Review**

Referring to Residential D, Cr Wilson questioned why some properties are charged and others are not. He suggested there should be no charge until all properties have meters.

The Group Manager Business Support advised that the rate has been struck and under the Rating Act it can't be changed this year. The Revenue & Financing Policy will be checked to see whether the volume of water that's being charged can be changed next year.

That Council directs officers to prepare a cost benefit analysis to investigate installing water meters district-wide through the Long Term Plan 2021-31.

Wilson/Rawlinson Carried

That Council directs officers to continue to fund drinking water as per the status quo of a fixed charge for connected ordinary properties and a fixed plus volumetric charge for extraordinary properties for the Revenue & Financing Policy 2021.

Wilson/Rawlinson Carried

That Council directs staff to investigate a realistic quantity of water for properties connected to Residential D before volumetric charge is applied and this be reported back to the IS Committee.

Wilson/Rawlinson Carried

- **Ng King Bros Chinese Market Garden Settlement Funding Request**

1. **That** Council approves an additional budget of \$40,000 to fund the complete restoration of the Ng King Bros Chinese Market Garden Settlement buildings; and
2. **That** this funding is subject to the project obtaining Heritage New Zealand listing and receiving confirmation of their 50% contribution.

Cameron/Falloon Carried

- **Approval to use the Access Trust Special Fund**

That Council approves the use of the Access Trust special fund money of \$39,376 to apply towards the youth driver's licence project and the special fund be closed.

McMillan/Falloon Carried

- **Environment Canterbury – Draft Annual Plan 2020-21 Submission**

That Council approves the submission to Environment Canterbury about the draft Annual Plan 2020-21.

McKay/Lovett Carried

- **Consultation for the Annual Plan 2020-21**

That the matter lies on the table until completion of agenda items 14 and 15.

McKay/McMillan

Carried

13 **Methven Community Board**

That Council receives the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 2 March 2020.

Letham/McMillan

Carried

Board Chairman, Dan McLaughlin was present for discussion on the request for an increase to the Board's discretionary fund. If successful, the Board will use some of the additional funding for the Methven walkway upgrade.

- **Methven Community Board Discretionary Fund**

That Council increases the Methven Community Board's discretionary fund from \$10,000 to \$25,000 in the 2020-21 year.

McMillan/Letham

Carried

NZTA Presentation

Graham Taylor (Principal Project Manager), Michael Blyleven (Transport Planning Manager), Jim Harland (Director) and Steve Higgs (Lead Strategic Planner).

Tinwald corridor / Walnut Ave – projects identified in the upgrade package (government programme with \$6m funding independent of the national land transport funding system). NZTA is finalising the establishment report and will then develop detailed project delivery plans. Following acceptance of the plans, NZTA will be in a position to engage with Ashburton council and community.

When the business case for the Tinwald corridor was developed the focus was on the Grahams Rd access to Lake Hood; the new proposal for signals at the Agnes/Lagmhor intersections will enable better west/east connection and will meet the Minister's requirements around safe community access. Signals at Lagmhor Rd will allow a right turn onto the highway. Installing signals at Agnes St will require redesign of the local road intersection and this will be looked at in more detail as the project progresses. NZTA will also engage with Council on the proposed shared pedestrian/cycle path along the green.

Walnut Ave roundabouts (East and West Streets) will be replaced with signals. Design work is progressing with some discussion to be resolved with KiwiRail before NZTA can move to construction.

Weigh station – SH1, Rakaia – this area has been identified by NZTA as the most appropriate site to monitor trucks for overloading and brake deficiencies. Using a number recognition camera to select potentially overweight vehicles it transmits that data into a system that shows whether the truck has an overload permit. Vehicles would travel across the weighbridge at 5km/hour. Data captured nationally shows that this type of weigh station is effective at creating a conformance approach. Location is critical, to ensure trucks are not able to easily bypass the site by taking alternative routes.

NZTA have a permanent speed limit proposed for this section of the highway and will install signs that will be activated by vehicles to reduce speed to 70km/hr (permanent speed, if approved, will drop to 60km/hr). Acceleration shoulders will allow trucks to accelerate before joining traffic.

In addition to creating a weigh station, NZTA will relocate the rest area to the other side of North Rakaia Road. NZTA have taken advice from ECan on flood mitigation.

Experience of similar weigh stations around NZ shows good observance and heightened driver awareness, resulting in crash rates almost disappearing. A full safety audit and full traffic assessment (with Police expertise) have been carried out.

NZTA acknowledge Council's concerns with the proposed site. An alternative site in the Rakaia township was looked at but discounted due to the potential for trucks to avoid the site by using Thompsons Track.

NZTA have taken into account issues with the proposed site which were raised by safety auditors. As a result they upgraded the design which was submitted to and subsequently signed off by a safety engineer (Christchurch office). A copy of the safety audit will be provided to Council's roading team.

NZTA has consulted with the heavy haul industry – this was first raised at a trucking event in Christchurch two years ago. The National Road Transport Forum are aware of and support the proposed site. Consultation was undertaken with the adjacent property owner, but not with the Rakaia community.

In conclusion, the Mayor thanked the NZTA reps for their presentation. He commented that Council is not opposed to a weigh station but remains concerned and needs assurance that the proposed site is the right location.

Graham Taylor reiterated that the site has been fully safety audited and fully safety analysed. Both reports were peer reviewed and both confirm the site will work fully.

Council adjourned 2.50pm to 3.05pm.

14 Rate Increase for 2020-21 Annual Plan

The Group Manager Business support reported that the budget prepared before the Covid-19 lockdown had a proposed rate increase of 4.8%. The report presented today sets out options to reduce the rates, should Council wish to do so. Council will take into account the agreed reduction of EMC's funding to \$195k in the 2020-21 year.

That the motion be taken in parts.

McKay/Cameron

Carried

That the fees and charges be as per the draft 2020/21 budget.

Letham/Braam

Carried

That Council approves changes to the draft 2020/21 budget through saving in interest of \$400k, and district tourism savings of \$195k.

Letham/Braam

Lost

A show of hands gave 5 for and 5 against the motion.

On the Mayor's casting vote (against) the motion failed to pass.

That Council approves a rate increase of up to 2.5% in the 2020-21 year that will include interest savings of 400k, district tourism savings of 195k, and further savings to be identified by the Chief Executive.

McMillan/Falloon

Carried

The Mayor recorded his vote against the motion noting his preference would be an increase of less than 2.5%.

Crs Cameron and McKay recorded their votes against the motion.

15 2019-20 Rates – Instalment 4 penalty

1 **That** Council relaxes the criteria and process in the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy for penalty write-offs for instalment 4 of the 20219-20 rates; specifically

1.1 **That** Council waives the restriction to allow for penalty waivers to be applied if applicants have received a waiver in the past 24 months.

1.2 **That** Council allows applicants to apply for a penalty waiver in writing, via an online form or over the phone.

Mayor/Braam

Carried

Consultation for the Annual Plan 2020-21

That the matter be uplifted for discussion.

McKay/McMillan

Carried

That Council decides not to consult on the Annual Plan 2020-21 in accordance with section 95(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2002.

Rawlinson/Letham

Carried

16 Reserve and Hall Boards – Triennial Meetings

It was reported that insufficient attendance at the Ruapuna Reserve Board triennial meeting meant they were unable to elect a Board. Council acknowledged the difficulty for small communities to attract enough interest to fill board member roles.

Reserve Boards yet to complete their triennial meeting obligations will be followed up when Covid alert level restrictions are lifted. It was agreed that the elected member appointees should continue to liaise with their respective boards in the meantime.

Consideration will be given to bringing a report to Council on how to proceed with those boards unable to continue under the requirements of their existing constitutions.

1 **That** Council receives the report.

2 **That** Council approves the appointments submitted by the Boards, as detailed in this report.

Cameron/McKay

Carried

17 Mayor's Report

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

Mayor/McMillan

Carried

• Ashburton Youth Council

That Cr Diane Rawlinson be appointed to the Ashburton Youth Council in replacement of Cr Carolyn Cameron.

Lovett/McMillan

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

• Ashburton Business Estate development of Stages A & B (Contract COMP0133)

1. **That** Council accepts the tender from Ashburton Contracting Limited in the sum of Three Million, six hundred and twenty nine thousand, three hundred and ninety seven dollars (\$3,629,397.00) for Contract COMP0133 and in accordance with Option One.

2. **That** Council accepts the quotation from EA Networks in the sum of four hundred and eleven thousand, eight hundred and sixteen dollars (\$411,816.00) to provide high voltage electrical distribution, communications and street lighting for Contract COMP0133 and in accordance with Option One.

Braam/Falloon

Carried

• Experience Mid Canterbury 2020-21 budget

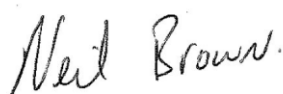
That Council reduces the 2020-21 Experience Mid Canterbury budget to \$195,000.

Falloon/Lovett

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.27pm.

Confirmed 21 May 2020



MAYOR